

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the non-final Office action dated June 7, 2004. Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. In this Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, and 7-10, and objected to claims 2, 3, and 6. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 11-21 were allowable. In this response and amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 4, and, 6, and has presented new claims 22-26. In view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and allowance of the claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejections

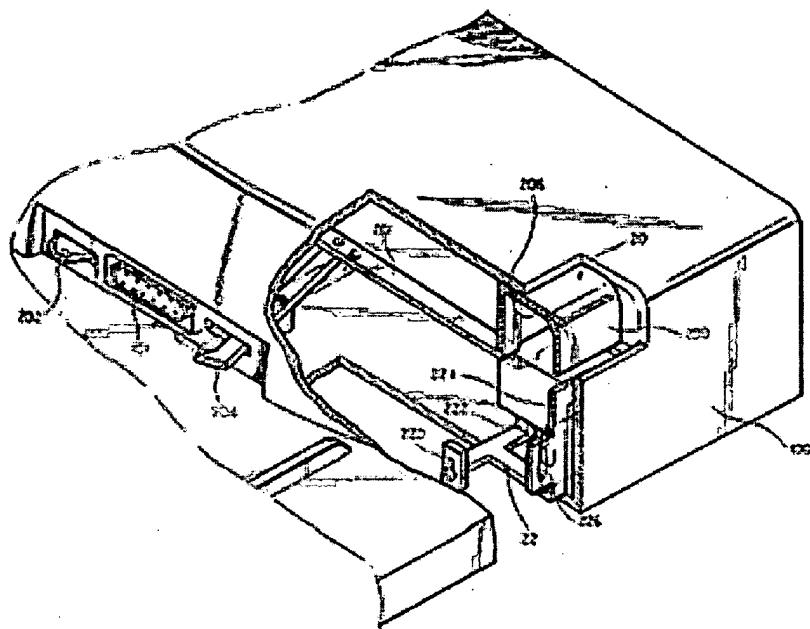
Claims 1, 4, 5 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,275,378 (hereinafter "Lee"). Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 4 to clarify the claimed invention, and requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, and 8-10.

Claim 1 is amended herein to recite an apparatus including a housing having an access door permitting access to a removable component located within the interior of the housing, the access door being movable between a closed position and an open position, a slot extending through the housing, the slot sized and located to receive a lock head of a locking device when the lock head exhibits a first orientation and to retain the lock head when the lock head exhibits a second orientation, and a latch assembly disposed in the housing to maintain the access door in the closed position when the lock head exhibits the second orientation, and to permit the access door to be opened when the lock head exhibits the first orientation and is positioned within the

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

slot. The amended claim 1 recites that the access door permits access to a removable component housed within the housing, as disclosed in the specifications at page 4, paragraph 0009.

Lee discloses a safety lock for securing a notebook computer to a computer docking station. The safety lock of Lee includes a pushing device 20, as shown in figure 3 (reproduced below). As described in column 2, lines 12 through 17, and lines 52 through 58, pushing device 20 includes an activating section 200 that may be pushed to activate the safety lock 22.



Lee Fig. 3

In contrast to the invention of the present application, Lee does not disclose an apparatus having an access door permitting access to a “removable apparatus component housed within the interior.” Pushing device 20 is not an access door as it does not allow access to the interior of the notebook computer, or to the interior of the computer dock housing. More specifically, pushing device 20 does not permit access to any removable component contained within the interior cavity of either the computer or the dock.

For at least the above reason, claim 1 is not anticipated by Lee. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn. In addition, as claims 2 and 3 were objected to as being dependent on rejected claim 1, Applicant respectfully request that the objection to these claims be withdrawn upon acceptance of claim 1.

Claim 4 has also been similarly amended to further clarify the disclosed apparatus of the present invention. As amended, claim 4 recites an apparatus including a housing with an access door permitting access to a removable component located substantially within a cavity interior to the housing, a slot extending through the housing, the slot sized and located to receive a lock head of a removable locking device when the lock head exhibits a first orientation and to retain the lock head when the lock head exhibits a second orientation, a latch to engage the access door and maintain the access door in the closed position when the latch is at a first position, the latch movable to a second position wherein the latch disengages the access door to enable the access door to move toward the open position, and a stop element disposed on the latch, the stop element to engage the lock head and to maintain the latch in the first position when the lock head exhibits the second orientation, and to allow the latch to be moved to the second position when the lock head is positioned in the slot and exhibits the first orientation.

As discussed above, Lee does not disclose any access door permitting access to a removable component located within an interior cavity. Instead, as described above in the context of claim 1, Lee shows a pushing device 20 that may be pushed, or decompressed, to activate a computer dock safety lock 22. For at least the reason that Lee fails to show an access door permitting access to an interior removable component, claim 4 is not anticipated by Lee, and is in condition for allowance. Rejected claims 5, and 8-10 depend from and include all of

the elements of claim 4. Thus, these claims are also not anticipated by Lee, and are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, as claim 6 was objected to as being dependent upon rejected claim 4, Applicant respectfully request that claim 6 be allowed upon allowance of claim 4.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Claim 7 was rejected 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. in view of Hotsumi, U.S. Patent No. 4,627,589 (hereinafter "Hotsumi"). To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the prior art references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. MPEP § 2143. Neither Lee nor Hotsumi alone or in combination provide the required teaching or suggestion.

As described above for claim 1, Lee fails to teach or suggest an apparatus having an access door permitting access to a removable component located within the housing interior. Hotsumi fails to add to the disclosure of Lee, with respect to this recited element, and together there is no disclosure, teaching, or suggestion of an access door permitting access to an interior removable component.

Specifically, Hotsumi discloses a housing for an electronic apparatus configured to be mounted onto a motor vehicle. As shown in figures 5 and 7A-7D (reproduced below), electronic device housing 30 is fixed to a mounting plate 40 via a L-shaped plate 68 and a slider 66. As described in column 3, lines 15 through 28, and 53 through 59, once the L-shaped plate and slider are placed onto a housing 30, the apparatus may be fixed onto the mounting plate 40, and biased into place by a spring 70. L-shaped plate 68, slider 66, and mounting plate 40, as well as other portions of the disclosed fixation mechanism, are secured onto the housing and thus are not part of the housing itself.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Fig. 5

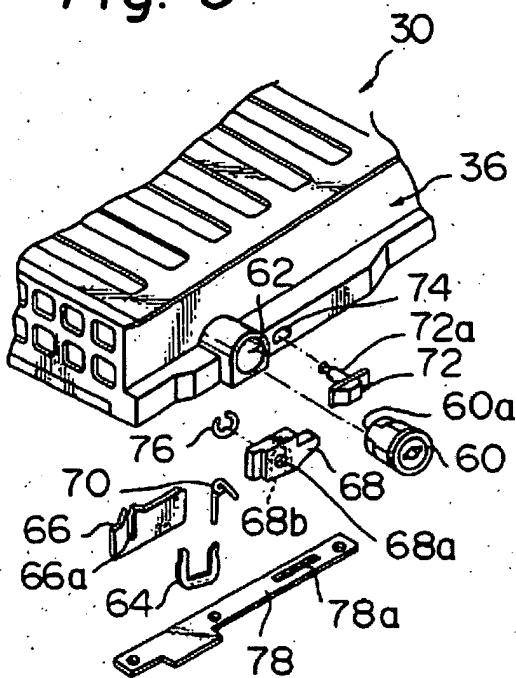


Fig. 7A

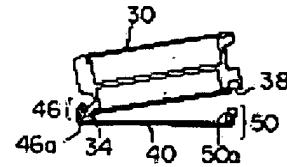


Fig. 7B

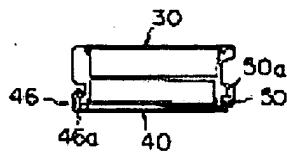


Fig. 7C

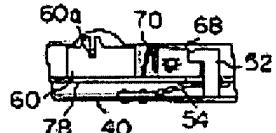
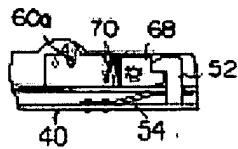


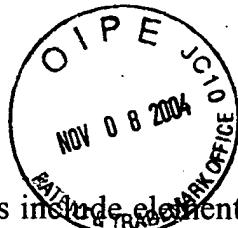
Fig. 7D



Hotsumi does not disclose, teach or suggest an access door granting access to the interior of the housing. Hotsumi discloses securing a housing onto a mobile body. Hotsumi does not teach or suggest the removal of the electronic device, or any removable parts thereof. For at least this reason, claim 7 is not obvious over Lee in view of Hotsumi. Thus, claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

New Claims

New claims 22-26 are also presented herein. Applicant believes that new claims 22-26 are supported by the disclosure in the application as filed, specifically at page 5 paragraph 9, page 9 paragraph 30 through page 10 paragraph 32. Further, Applicant believes that these new



claims include elements not taught or suggested by the prior art, and therefore that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is deposited with the United States Postal Service a class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope address Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 November 5, 2004.



Pam Knight

Respectfully submitted,

KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.



B. Anna McCoy
Registration No. 46,077
Customer No. 23581
Of Attorneys for Applicants/Assignee
520 S.W. Yamhill Street, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 224-6655
Facsimile: (503) 295-6679